

1. A student in my internship classroom had minor surgery, which required him to use a wheeled walker at school. Despite his doctor recommending that the walker only be used for three weeks, his mother insisted that he use it for the remainder of the school year (another 2 months). By week three, he was fully recovered and was using his walker as a toy and it became a hazard to other children at the school. He rolled it right at students like a bowling ball on numerous occasions, which knocked at least one of them to the ground. The school contacted his mother after each incident and she still insisted that he have the walker with him at all times. School staff eventually decided to just let it go because, as my teacher told me, this family had threatened to file a lawsuit against the school in the past. If a medical issue is causing safety concerns for other students, does the school have any rights to follow doctor orders instead of what the family demands?

2. What are the most common issues that result in lawsuits against teachers?